

# Will the Republican Party survive the 2016 election?

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Political analysts are contemplating the possibility that the Republican Party will not effectively survive the 2016 election. The problem is that the Republican Party may be damned if it does nominate Donald Trump and damned if it doesn't.

On the one hand, if the Republican Party does nominate Trump, the systematic conservatives and longstanding Republicans may be so demoralized that they won't support him. Keep in mind slogans like these: Against Trump, Never Trump. Notable, longstanding Republicans have affirmed that they will never vote for Trump. So if Trump wins the nomination, will he be able to draw the support of these people?

Given Trump's temperament, it seems likely that he will write them off as losers, since this seems to be his response to anyone who seriously challenges him. What did he have to say about the National Review issue "Against Trump"? Did he savor the opportunity to respond rationally, attempting to competently counter well-conceived and well-expressed challenges? No. He just belittled the magazine, saying that it is a dying publication that no one reads any more.

On the other hand, if the Republican Party does not nominate Trump, it is likely that Trump will declare that the nominating process was corrupt, thereby setting the stage for his running outside of the Republican Party. Given Trump's temperament, he seems to think that if he doesn't win, it is because corrupt power players conspired against him. He seems incapable of respecting people who compete with him politically, and he seems incapable of respecting a highly competitive electoral process that does not result in his winning.

In my view, Trump's populist popularity has come easily for him, and, being an egotist and a political novice, he has allowed his popularity to go to his head. He seems to think that his current popularity speaks for itself: everyone should fawn over him just as his ardent supporters do, and those who don't do so are just a bunch of losers. But his populist popularity may be insufficient for winning the Republican nomination and, more importantly, for winning the presidency.

In order to put these events and possibilities in perspective, at this meeting will we look at the history of the major political parties in the United States, noting when they were created, why they were created, and how they evolved over time.

This topic continues that of the last meeting. So, as before, I wish to emphasize that this topic constitutes an analysis of American history and of American electoral processes. This topic is not about supporting or opposing Donald Trump or any other electoral candidate.